

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 2**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2002- 007**

**DATE: January 18, 2002**

**TIME: 6:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train Derailment – A large anhydrous ammonia plume enveloped significant portions of the Minot area.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Local officials reported 73 people were treated at Trinity Medical Center in Minot. Eleven people were evaluated by the Fifth Medical Group of the Minot Air Force Base. Approximately 120 people were treated at a triage center located in the Edison Elementary School in Minot.
3. DAMAGES: Approximately 30 homes near the derailment site remain evacuated. Local officials anticipate residents may not be able to return for 24 to 48 hours. Evacuees, however, will be allowed to return to check their homes and care for pets. They will be accompanied by representatives of Xcel Energy and Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) to ensure safe restoration of electric and gas service.

Twenty-one cars of the 112-car Canadian Pacific Railway train derailed. Fifteen cars carried anhydrous ammonia; at least one ruptured and another developed a leak. Two tank cars containing liquid petroleum gas were removed from the scene.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Responders include the Minot Fire Department, the Minot Rural Fire Department, the Burlington Fire Department, the Minot Air Force Base Hazardous Material Unit, the Minot Police Department, the Ward County Sheriff's Office, the Ward County Emergency Management and the Canadian Pacific Railway Environmental Affairs Office.

STATE: Agencies providing support include the Governor's Office, State Radio Communications, the Department of Health, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the State Highway Patrol, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Transportation, State Veterinarian's Office, University System and the Division of Emergency Management.

FEDERAL: To date, officials from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Minot Air Force Base and the NWS are providing assistance.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The American Red Cross sheltered approximately 60 people at the Edison Elementary School in Minot and up to 15 people in Burlington. Both shelters have since been closed. The Red Cross has placed three families in motels, and others have been housed in private residences. Approximately 100 snacks and meals were provided to evacuees and responders in the Burlington and Minot areas.

The Salvation Army distributed 100 meals to workers at the derailment site and the Minot Command Center.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Although two minor leaks remain to be mitigated, responders have stabilized the derailment site. Earthmovers Inc., a contractor for Canadian

Pacific Railway, is building a road to the highly inaccessible site, which is bordered by the Souris River.

Dr. Terry Dwelle, the State Health Officer, remained on scene to assist with medical follow-up care. The First District Health Unit will operate from 6 a.m. until 11 p.m. Friday and can be reached at (701) 852-1376.

The N.D. Department of Health activated its Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team to assist public safety personnel responding to the train derailment.

The Department of Health published information regarding anhydrous ammonia on its Internet site: <http://www.health.state.nd.us/healthalert/anhydrous.htm>.

The N.D. Department of Human Services will provide crisis-counseling consultations.

Members of the Minnesota National Guard's 55<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) is assisting local and state responders, using a computer modeling system to collect climatic data to determine the potential spread of the anhydrous ammonia plume.

Responders also received technical assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Response Team and the Director of the Air Quality Division of the N.D. Department of Health.

The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service issued a news release describing the health hazards associated with anhydrous ammonia. The news release can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extnews/newsrelease/2002/current/01index.htm>.

The North Dakota University System is assisting the N.D. Department of Health in its efforts to disseminate information.

Staff at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provided briefings to personnel from the U.S. Fifth Army, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Manitoba Emergency Measures Office.

The NTSB was scheduled to arrive on scene Friday evening to determine the cause of the derailment.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous report.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director